

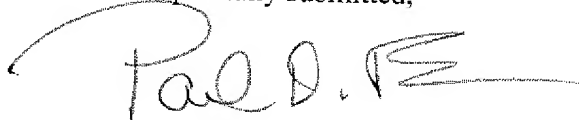
REMARKS

This application is the U.S. national stage application of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/003677, filed 6 April 2004. This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted before Action in order to expedite the prosecution of this application. A marked-up copy of the specification and a substitute specification are filed concurrently herewith to add section headers and make other minor changes. The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple claim dependencies and to otherwise place the claims in conformance with U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicant's attorneys using the contact information below.

Please charge the required fee (or credit any overpayments of fees) to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket no. 7400-X06-163).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Bianco", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Paul D. Bianco, Reg. # 43,500

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